

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A thermally and acoustically insulated vessel, said vessel comprising:

a body of polymeric material which defines at least a portion of a wall of said vessel, said wall having opposed first and second surfaces; and

a body of a refractory fabric which is partially embedded in, and retained by, said polymeric material of said wall so that a portion of said body of refractory fabric is exposed upon ~~a surface of said body of polymeric material~~ one of said first and second surfaces of said wall, the other of said surfaces of said wall not having said body of refractory fabric exposed thereupon; whereby said exposed portion of said refractory fabric provides thermal and acoustic insulation for said vessel.

2. (Original) The vessel of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a non-woven fabric.

3. (Original) The vessel of claim 1, wherein said fabric is comprised of carbonized filaments of a polymeric material.

4. (Original) The vessel of claim 3, wherein said polymeric material comprises polyacrylonitrile.

5. (Original) The vessel of claim 1, wherein said body of refractory fabric has a thickness in the range of 1-50 millimeters.

6. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 1, wherein said ~~body of polymeric material~~ wall is configured to retain a fluid.

7. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 6, wherein said ~~body of polymeric material~~ wall defines at least a portion of a duct configured to direct a stream of gaseous fluid therethrough.

8. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 7, wherein said fabric is disposed upon an interior surface of said ~~duct~~ wall so as to be in contact with said stream of a gaseous fluid.

9. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 6, wherein said ~~body of polymeric material~~ wall is configured to retain a liquid.

10. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 9, wherein said ~~body of polymeric material~~ wall defines at least a portion of a tank.

11. (Original) The vessel of claim 9, wherein said vessel is configured to retain a fluid in contact with an interior surface thereof, and wherein said body of a refractory fabric is disposed upon an exterior surface of said vessel.

12. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 1, wherein said ~~body of polymeric material~~ wall defines at least a portion of a conduit which is configured to retain a communication line therein, and wherein said body of refractory fabric is disposed on an exterior surface of said conduit.

13. (Original) The vessel of claim 1, further including a layer of metallic material disposed atop a surface of the exposed body of refractory fabric.

14. (Original) The vessel of claim 13, wherein said layer of metallic material comprises a metal foil.

15. (Original) The vessel of claim 13, wherein said layer of metallic material is a woven material.

16. (Original) The vessel of claim 15, wherein said woven material is an aluminum-based material.

17. (Original) The vessel of claim 16, wherein said aluminum-based material is co-woven aluminum and glass fiber material.

18-31 (Canceled)